

FOR WIRE TRANSMISSION 8:30 A.M. EDT, Monday, July 15, 2002

CB02-92

MANUFACTURING AND TRADE INVENTORIES AND SALES **May 2002**

NOTICE OF REVISION: Unadjusted and adjusted monthly manufacturing estimates have been revised from January 1992 – April 2002. See: <http://www.census.gov/m3p> for additional information.

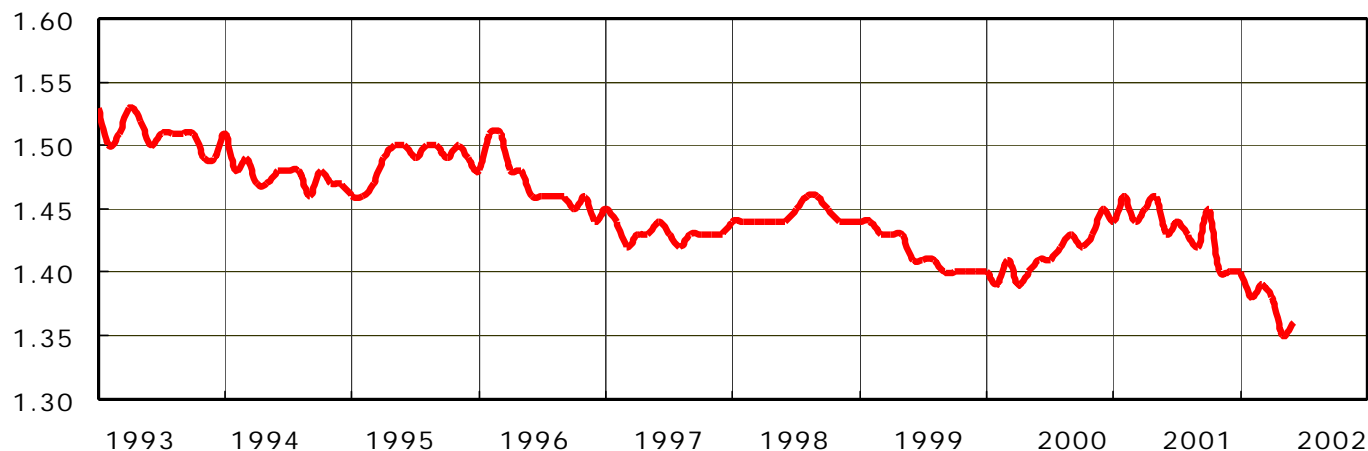
Sales. The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that the combined value of distributive trade sales and manufacturers' shipments (excluding semiconductors) for May, adjusted for seasonal and trading-day differences but not for price changes, were estimated at \$819.7 billion, down 0.4 percent ($\pm 0.2\%$) from April and were down 0.7 percent ($\pm 0.6\%$) from May 2001.

Inventories. Manufacturers' and trade inventories (excluding semiconductors) adjusted for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were estimated at an end-of-month level of \$1,116.3 billion, up 0.2 percent ($\pm 0.1\%$) from April but were down 5.7 percent ($\pm 0.3\%$) from May 2001.

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The total business inventories/sales ratio based on seasonally adjusted data at the end of May was 1.36. The May 2001 ratio was 1.43.

Total Business Inventories/Sales Ratios: 1993 to 2002

(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading-day differences but not for price changes)



The Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales Report for June is scheduled for release August 14, 2002 at 8:30 a.m.

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The wholesale and manufacturing data in this report also appear in the following monthly Census Bureau publications: Current Industrial Reports (see M3 series for manufacturers data) and Current Business Reports (see BW series for merchant wholesalers). Retail data are available on the Census website at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>. May data were released July 3 for Manufacturers and July 10 for merchant wholesalers. The data are also available the day of issue on the Internet-<http://www.census.gov/bussales> - and on Department of Commerce's STAT-USA website; for information, call (202) 482-1986.

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Sales and Inventories for Manufacturers, Retailers, and Merchant Wholesalers
(In millions of dollars)

	Sales			Inventories ¹			Inventories/Sales Ratios		
	May. 2002	Apr. 2002	May. 2001	May. 2002	Apr. 2002	May. 2001	May. 2002	Apr. 2002	May. 2001
	(p)	(r)	(s)	(p)	(r)	(s)			
Adjusted²									
Total business ³	819,700	822,615	825,554	1,116,316	1,113,864	1,183,677	1.36	1.35	1.43
Manufacturers ^{3,4}	323,645	322,962	334,343	428,232	430,153	468,623	1.32	1.33	1.40
Retailers.....	268,287	271,522	263,930	406,651	402,518	411,850	1.52	1.48	1.56
Merchant wholesalers.....	227,768	228,131	227,281	281,433	281,193	303,204	1.24	1.23	1.33
Not Adjusted									
Total business.....	854,473	819,637	856,949	1,115,019	1,117,137	1,182,724	1.30	1.36	1.38
Manufacturers ^{3,4}	332,826	319,852	340,558	430,677	431,168	471,504	1.29	1.35	1.38
Retailers.....	283,979	268,570	278,213	405,686	404,511	410,639	1.43	1.51	1.48
Merchant wholesalers.....	237,668	231,215	238,178	278,656	281,458	300,581	1.17	1.22	1.26

See footnotes and notes at the end of Table 3.

(p) Preliminary.

(r) Revised.

(s) Adjusted data were revised due to concurrent seasonal adjustment. No revisions were made to Not Adjusted data.

Table 2. Percent Changes for Sales and Inventories -- Manufacturers, Retailers, and Merchant Wholesalers

	Adjusted						Not Adjusted					
	Sales			Inventories			Sales			Inventories		
	May. 02/ Apr. 02	Apr. 02/ Mar. 02	May. 02/ May. 01	May. 02/ Apr. 02	Apr. 02/ Mar. 02	May. 02/ May. 01	May. 02/ Apr. 02	Apr. 02/ Mar. 02	May. 02/ May. 01	May. 02/ Apr. 02	Apr. 02/ Mar. 02	May. 02/ May. 01
Total business.....	-0.4	1.7	-0.7	0.2	-0.2	-5.7	4.3	-0.9	-0.3	-0.2	0.1	-5.7
Manufacturers.....	0.2	2.3	-3.2	-0.4	-0.3	-8.6	4.1	-3.9	-2.3	-0.1	0.6	-8.7
Retailers.....	-1.2	1.2	1.7	1.0	0.3	-1.3	5.7	0.5	2.1	0.3	0.4	-1.2
Merchant wholesalers.....	-0.2	1.5	0.2	0.1	-0.9	-7.2	2.8	1.7	-0.2	-1.0	-0.9	-7.3

Table 3. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales, Inventories, and Inventories/Sales Ratios, By Kind of Business

(In millions of dollars)

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Sales			Inventories ¹			Percent Change			Inventories/Sales		
		May 2002 (p)	Apr. 2002 (r)	May 2001 (s)	May 2002 (p)	Apr. 2002 (r)	May 2001 (s)	May 02/ Apr. 02	Apr. 02/ Mar. 02	May 02/ May 01	May 02	Apr. 02	May 01
	Adjusted ²												
	Retail total	268,287	271,522	263,930	406,651	402,518	411,850	1.0	0.3	-1.3	152	148	156
	Total (excl. mfg. & pct.)	198,674	199,580	193,193	281,158	280,081	284,788	0.4	0.1	-1.3	142	140	147
441	Mot. veh. & parts stores	69,613	71,942	70,737	125,493	122,437	127,062	2.5	0.9	-1.2	180	170	180
4423	Furniture, home furn. & appl. stores	15,811	15,606	14,660	26,224	25,740	25,106	1.9	0.7	4.5	166	165	171
444	Bldg. materials, gen. equip. & supplies	26,117	26,277	25,120	40,895	40,941	40,583	-0.1	0.1	0.8	157	156	162
445	Food & beverage stores	39,978	39,921	39,287	33,363	33,361	33,505	0.0	0.0	-0.4	083	084	085
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	14,305	14,617	14,114	33,305	33,233	34,755	0.2	0.8	-4.2	233	227	246
452	General merchandise stores	37,996	38,285	35,418	63,980	63,785	66,657	0.3	-0.1	-4.0	168	167	188
4521	Dept. stores (excl. food & dept.)	18,952	19,329	19,096	39,538	39,737	43,007	-0.5	-0.8	-8.1	209	206	225
	Not Adjusted												
	Retail total	283,979	268,570	278,213	405,686	404,511	410,639	0.3	0.4	-1.2	143	151	148
	Total (excl. mfg. & pct.)	207,375	193,411	200,186	276,001	276,826	279,431	-0.3	0.2	-1.2	133	143	140
441	Mot. veh. & parts stores	76,604	75,159	78,027	129,685	127,685	131,208	1.6	0.8	-1.2	169	170	168
4423	Furniture, home furn. & appl. stores	15,238	14,061	14,073	25,647	25,380	24,478	1.1	1.1	4.8	168	180	174
444	Bldg. materials, gen. equip. & supplies	32,213	30,482	30,972	42,408	43,029	42,044	-1.4	1.5	0.9	132	141	136
445	Food & beverage stores	41,684	37,795	40,564	32,770	32,946	32,887	-0.5	-0.7	-0.4	079	087	081
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	14,363	13,360	13,939	32,139	32,369	33,573	-0.7	0.6	-4.3	224	242	242
452	General merchandise stores	38,110	34,966	35,124	61,799	61,713	64,395	0.1	-0.2	-4.0	162	176	183
4521	Dept. stores (excl. food & dept.)	18,759	17,526	18,640	38,115	38,386	41,502	-0.7	-1.2	-8.2	203	219	223

(p) Preliminary (r) Revised (s) Adjusted data were revised due to concurrent seasonal adjustment. No revisions were made to Not Adjusted data.

¹ Inventories are on a non-LIFO basis as of the end of the month.

² Adjusted for seasonal variations and, in the case of sales, for trading-day differences and holiday variations. Concurrent seasonal adjustment is being used to adjust all sales, shipment and inventory estimates. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-12-ARIMA program. The factors derived from the program are applied to the current and previous month estimates and for retail and wholesale estimates a year ago as well. For retail sales, concurrent seasonal adjustment is also used to adjust the advance estimates (published one month before the preliminary estimates) and the estimates one year before the advance month. This explains the revision to retail estimates from a year ago.

³ Total business and manufacturers estimates exclude semiconductor manufacturers. The number of semiconductor manufacturers choosing not to participate in the voluntary manufacturing monthly survey has risen to a level such that the Census Bureau can no longer produce monthly estimates of semiconductor data.

⁴ Manufacturers sales refer to the value of shipments by manufacturers. The shipments data from individual manufacturers are adjusted prior to tabulation for the number of trading days as well as for any variations in the length of the reporting period.

Note: U.S. and group totals include kinds of business not shown. The Manufacturing and Trade Inventory and Sales estimates are based on data from three surveys: the Monthly Retail Trade Survey, the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey, and the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey. The sampling variability for retailers and merchant wholesalers can be used to construct a 90 percent confidence interval for the estimates. Over all possible samples, 90 percent of such intervals will cover the true estimate. These intervals are given in parentheses for the estimates on the front page. If, for example, the estimate is up 0.8 percent and the margin of sampling error is ± 1.2 percent, the 90 percent confidence interval is -0.4 percent to +2.0 percent. If the range contains 0, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. Measures of reliability for Retail and Wholesale sales and inventory levels and changes are included in the detailed monthly press releases for those industries. Manufacturers do not contribute to estimates of sampling variability because the manufacturer's mail panel is not a probability sample from a known frame and standard errors of the industry estimates cannot be calculated. Estimates from all three surveys are also subject to nonsampling errors, which can arise in any stage of the survey. Such errors include coverage error (failure to accurately represent all population units in the sample) response errors, coding errors, and nonresponse. Although no direct measurement of these errors has been obtained, precautionary steps were taken in all phases of the collection, processing, and tabulation of the data to minimize their influence.